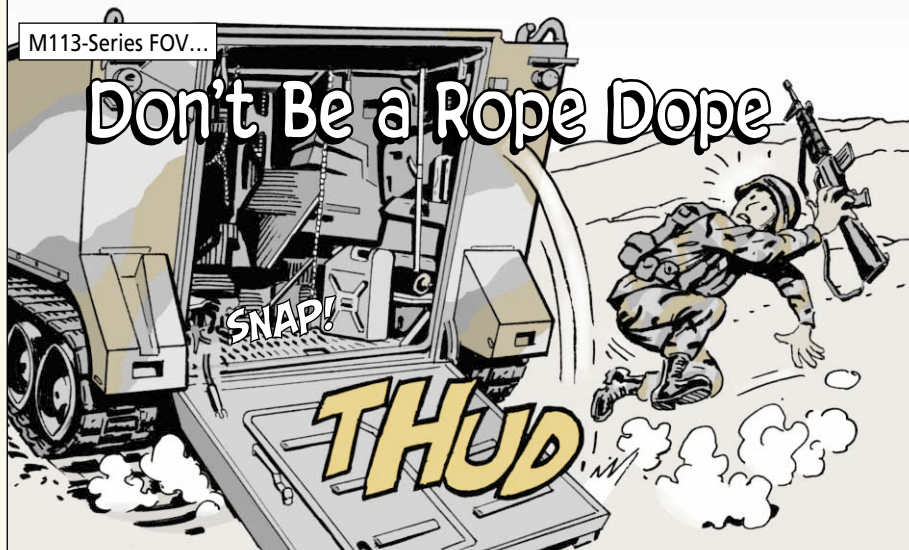


Don't Be a Rope Dope



Crewmen, the wire rope on your M113-series carrier's ramp may look tough, but corrosion can turn it into a real softy. No rope means the ramp can't be raised or lowered and your vehicle is NMC.

When the ramp is completely raised, the wire rope retracts under the floor plates. Any dirty water there soaks the rope and washes away its lubricating grease. Dirt and moisture cling to the wire strands and corrosion gets the foothold it needs.

You can prevent that by giving the wire rope a good cleaning every 6 months or 1,500 miles. In areas of high humidity, you may need to clean the rope more often. Here's what to do:

1. Coat the rope with clean OE/HDO oil and scrub it with a nylon brush. The brush loosens dirt particles that get embedded between the wire strands.
2. Wipe off the excess oil with a clean cloth. Make sure you wipe in a spiraling motion, following the direction of the strands. That wipes away all of the loose dirt. Wear leather gloves to protect your hands from frayed wire, too.
3. Give the rope a light coat of CW-II grease, NSN 9150-00-530-6814.

Of course, it's also a good idea to keep the hull under the floor plates clean.

